

For immediate release

Julie Ault, Martin Beck
Information

Exhibition dates: January 17 – February 18, 2006
Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11 AM – 6 PM

Storefront for Art and Architecture is pleased to present Julie Ault and Martin Beck: Information

Ault and Beck's exhibition Information investigates the production of poverty within the U.S. Based on government data referring to poverty measures over the last forty years as well as the increasing income gap, Information focuses on systemic parameters for what constitutes poverty as a socio-economic standing, principally the "poverty line." The poverty line is a concrete, abstract, and symbolic parameter or dividing device that points to governmental debates and policies relevant to economic divisions in American society.

Information takes the form of a large scale mural, inserting into Storefront's exhibition space a visual landscape that layers aesthetic and political representations. Ault and Beck's precise data collection and analysis speaks of an artistic strategy that exhibits an acute conceptual rigor; its minimalist aesthetics, however, is also theatrical in the sense that it makes the viewer's position in relation to the work a key element of its visualization.

Information is a new version of Ault and Beck's contribution to the 2004 group exhibition Borne of Necessity curated by Ron Platt for the Weatherspoon Art Museum in Greensboro, NC. In an essay on Ault and Beck's contribution to Borne of Necessity Jason Simon writes, "The striking accomplishment of the piece is its double engagement with the audience, first for the compelling function of scale to force one's self-identification within the data, and second, for the audience's realization that the stakes involved in representing the poor are very high indeed. Walking along the timeline we cannot avoid the awareness of how devices such as the official poverty line, unchanged since its devising, are very much in the business of the production of poverty, the systemic institutionalizing of poverty as an undifferentiated instrument of economic policy and its professionals."

Julie Ault and Martin Beck are artists and authors based in New York City. Their collaborations include the exhibition Outdoor Systems, indoor distribution (2000), the book project Critical Condition (2003), designs for exhibitions at ICP, New York, and Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna. In 2005, their co-curated exhibition Mirage was on view at Alexander and Bonin Gallery in New York. Ault and Beck also work individually; their individual shows include Ault's Power Up: Sister Corita and Donald Moffett, Interlocking (1997 & 2000) and Beck's an Exhibit viewed played populated (2003).